had also been started from October, 1985. Main findings with regard to the impact of IRDP and NREP on the beneficiaries are as follows:

IRDP

(i) Over 50 per cent of the beneficiaries assisted have crossed the old poverty line of Rs. 3500, but only 12 per cent have crossed the raised poverty line of Rs. 6400.

(ii) A very substantial number of beneficiaries have reported increase in their income on account of assistance received under the programmes.

(iii) Majority of beneficiaries feel that family employment as well as consumption level had increased after being provided IRDP benefits.

NREP

(i) The socio-economic status of the beneficiaries indicates that benefits of the programmes were, by and large, going to the categories for whom the programmes is intended.

(ii) The predominant sources of empoyment for the beneficiaries were the non-NREP works and thus the programme had provided in general, some supplementary and additional employment opportunities.

(iii) Considering the focus of NREP being on providing additional employment in rural areas mainly during the lean months of the year, it could reasonably, be concluded that the works under the programme by and large, were meeting the objectives.

(iv) About 80 per cent of the total employment under NREP during 1982-83 was shared by SC/ST and Backward Classes which accounted for 70 per cent of the sample size.

(c) Steps, like : isuse of specific instructions to State Government etc. and amendment of guidelines, if necessary are taken to remove the drawbacks in the implementation of the three programmes which come to light from time to time.

Reduction in the States' Annual Plan outlays

*232. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMAY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whther it is a fact that the States' Annual Plan Outlays were reduced to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crores because of the resource crunch in the previous year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the mobilisation of resources without hitting the State Plans?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) As compared to 1987-88, there was a step up of 7.6 per cent in the overall size of Annual Plans of all States (excluding Punjab) for the year 1988-89. While the Annual Plans for all States (excluding Punjab) for the year 1987-88 aggregated to Rs. 17591 crores, the corresponding figure for 1988-89 works out to Rs. 18943 crores.

(b) Does not arise.

Indigenously developed Telecommunication Technology

*233. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CIT-Alcatel, the transnational telecommunication giant has approached India to buy its indigenously developed telecommunication technology of the public sector Centre for Development of Telematics;

(b) whether the Alcatel has also proposed to try this Indian technology in its most prestigious telephone network in Paris; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) CIT-Alcatel of France has approached the Centre for Development of Telematics for detailed technical information on C-DOT 128-Port Rural Automatic Exchange (RAX) for examining the feasibility of purchasing this equipment from India.

(b) and (c) CIT-Alcatel have not indicated the proposed area of application in France for this technology.

Facilities to the US Navy patrols by Pakistan

*234. PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is providing refueling and rest facilities to the US Navy patrols headed for the Persian Gulf from a base near Karachi; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen such reports.

(b) The setting up of foreign bases or facilities in our neighbourhood adversely affects the security environment of the entire region. Government have made known their concerns in this regard to Pakistan and the USA.

Suggestion for setting up of a National Monsoon Management Centre

*235. SHRI MAHENDRA PRAS
DR. RATNAKAR PANDE

Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea sed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the D rector of the International Rice Researc Institute has recently suggessted th Government should take new initiati like the establishment of a National M soon Management Centre which co stimulate action aimed at deriving c mum benefits from normal monsoons minimise the adverse impact of unfa rable weather; and

(b) if so, what are the details the and Government's decision in r thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TE NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER STATE IN THE DEPARTMEN OF OCEAN DEVELOPMEN ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The Government has received no such suggestion.

(b) In view of (a) above, the questior does not arise.

Tunnel through Rohtang Pass

*236. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to construct a tunnel through the Rohtang pass in Himachal Pradesh to link the snow-bound lahaul valley with the rest of the country; and

(b) if so, by when the work is proposed to be commenced on this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A feasibility study of constructing a tunnel at Rohtang has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 82 lakhs.